

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### APPLE AID SIGN-UP BEGINS THURSDAY

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), who announced yesterday that apple growers would soon be able to sign up for emergency aid, today provided the following additional details:

The rules governing the implementation of the \$100 million market loss assistance payment program for apple growers will be published in the Federal Register on Thursday, March 8. From then until April 13, growers will be permitted to apply for their portion of the assistance payments. Payments will be made on a grower's first 1.6 million pounds of production in either 1998 or 1999. The amount of each payment will depend on the number of applicants and the volume of production they report.

Apple producers may obtain an Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment Application, Form CCC-891, by calling any local office of the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA). The number for the nearest FSA office in New York State can be found in the blue pages of the phone book or at [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ny/state\\_&\\_counties.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ny/state_&_counties.htm). Growers will also be able to download the application from <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

The market loss assistance funds were added to the USDA's Fiscal Year 2001 budget by an amendment Hinchey wrote as a member of the Appropriations Committee. The Hinchey amendment also provided \$38 million for quality loss assistance to compensate growers for weather-related damages. The rules governing implementation of the quality loss assistance program are expected to be announced within a few weeks.